(d) whether Government have extended or propose to extend financial assistance to the State for reviving textile sector; and

(e) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. In the textile sector the proposal has been received from the Government of Kerala for development of sericulture industry under the following schemes:

(i) Catalytic Development Programme.

(ii) Cluster Development Project to be implemented by Central Silk Board in collaboration with SERIFED Kerala in three clusters *viz*, Chengannur, Agali and Nilambur.

(iii) A project received from the Attappady Hills Area Development Society for the development of sericulture in Attappady block of Palakkad district for implementation during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Central Silk Board has released an amount of Rs. 38.49 lakh and Rs. 82.30 lakh during 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively to the Kerala Government in respect of above schemes/projects.

Tax benefits at par with SEZs for apparel exporters

1612. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the apparel exporters are demanding tax benefits at par with the Special Economic Zones and liberalising of the building rules, to compete with their counterparts in other countries;

(b) whether any representation has been received in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action contemplated thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (c) The Apparel Export Promotion Council has made certain suggestions for tax benefits for apparel units in the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) at par with the Special Economic Zones (SEZs). Such proposals received from the Industry from time to time are examined and the concerns of the Industry are appropriately addressed.